

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANJUL 00525 311325Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /011 W  
-----058318 311330Z /50

O R 311255Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5377  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS BANJUL 525

AF DISTRIBUTION ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR US GA  
SUJB: COUNTRY DATA SHEETS

REF: (A) STATE 078166 (B) BANJUL A-02 (C) 77 STATE 295571

1. INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTEL IS AVAILABLE AID COUNTRY DATA BANK AND OTHER SOURCES SUCH AS IFI PUBLICATIONS. RATIONALE FOR OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CONTAINED REF B. EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO RESPOND BEFORE MARCH 31 BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL VISIT AND AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS. OUR RESPONSE TO REF A, USING ITS FORMAT, IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. ECONOMIC PROFILE:

--POPULATION ESTIMATED AT 550,000, WITH ANNUAL GROWTH 2.8 PERCENT, AND ABOUT 11,000 BIRTHS PER ANNUM;

--PER CAPITA INCOME IS ABOUT DOLS 200 PER ANNUM. GDP AT CURRENT MARKET PRICES INCREASED ABOUT 20 PERCENT PER YEAR FROM 1973 THROUGH 1977;

--GROWTH RATE OVER PERIOD 1970-75 WAS BETWEEN 10 AND 20 PERCENT PER ANNUM IN CURRENT PRICES LARGELY BECAUSE OF INCREASED WORLD  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANJUL 00525 311325Z

PRICE OF GROUNDNUTS, (WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR 95 PERCENT OF GAMBIAN EXPORT EARNINGS). FOLLOWING OIL PRICE RISE AND SUBSEQUENT OECD RECESSION, GAMBIAN INFLATION EQUALLED DOUBLE-DIGIT UK FIGURE BECAUSE DALASI TIED DIRECTLY TO STERLING. GAMBIAN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION IS DETERIORATING BECAUSE OF 30-40 PERCENT DECLINE IN MOST RECENT GROUNDNUT HARVEST;

---ONLY SIGNIFICANT GAMBIA EXPORT IS GROUNDNUTS AND GROUNDNUT PRODUCTS, VIRTUALLY ALL EXPORTED TO EEC;

---LITERACY RATE IS ABOUT 10 PERCENT;

--- LIFE EXPECTANCY IS ABOUT 35;

---DOCTOR/POPULATION RATIO IS ABOUT ONE TO 15,000;

---EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION ON CALORY INTAKE AND DOUBTS ANY RELIABLE DATA EXIST.

### 3. POLITICAL SITUATION:

---GAMBIA IS FUNCTIONING MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY, WITH PRESIDENT AND ELECTED PARLIAMENT, AND INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY;

---GAMBIA HAS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING SENEGAL, BELONGS TO NUMEROUS AFRICAN ORGANIZATIONS, AND FACES NO SERIOUS EXTERNAL OR INTERNAL THREAT.

### 4. HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITION:

---GAMBIA RECORD WOULD BE ENVY OF ANY COUNTRY.

### 5. U.S. INTERESTS AND POLICIES:

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANJUL 00525 311325Z

---THIS SUBJECT IS THOROUGHLY COVERED IN REFS B AND C. US ECONOMIC INTERESTS ARE AT PRESENT MINIMAL, US INVESTMENT NIL.

### 6. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

---US DIRECT BILATERAL ASSISTANCE BEGINS WITH DOLS 952,000 SOIL-WATER MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT SIGNED MARCH 30 BY AMBASSADOR (FY-78 FUNDS). R&R GRANT EXTENDED IN 1974 TOTALLED DOLS 675,000. SAHEL CROP PROTECTION (FY'S 76 AND 77) TOTALS DOLS 450,000. AIP PROJECT IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (FY-78 FUNDS) FOR DOLS 255,000 SIGNED MARCH 20. AMDP TOTALS DOLS 120,000 THIS FY. UC/SC MATERNAL HEALTH PROJECT, REGIONALLY FUNDED SINCE 1972 IS VALUED AT DOLS 150-175,000 PER ANNUM. IN CY-77, US SUPPLIED 1000 TONS RICE VALUED AT DOLS 467,000 AS PL-480 TITLE II EMERGENCY RELIEF. SECOND 1000 TONS (SORGHU ) TO ARRIVE HERE UNDER SAME PROGRAM IN APRIL, VALUED AT DOLS 709,000. CRS HAS ON-GOING PRE-SCHOOL FEEDING AND MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH TITLE II PROGRAM BUDGETED AT DOLS 300-400,000 PER ANNUM;

---GAMBIA HAS BENEFITTED FROM FOUR IBRD LOANS COVERING PORT IMPROVEMENT (COMPLETED) RURAL DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE,

AND EDUCATION;

---OTHER AID DONORS INCLUDE UK, UNDP, FRG, EEC, CANADA, CPR,  
AND VARIOUS ARAB SOURCES INCLUDING LIBYA.

7. OBJECTIVES OF U.S. ASSISTANCE:

---FROM INDEPENDENCE (1965) UNTIL 1975, TOTAL US ASSISTANCE TO  
GAMBIA WAS ABOUT DOLS 3 MILLION. AID COMMITMENTS SINCE THEN  
OUTLINED ABOVE. AID OBJECTIVES FULLY COVERED IN REF B. FURTHER  
USE OF PL-480 WILL DEPEND ON FUTURE RAINFALL SITUATION.

---GAMBIA HAS NEVER RECEIVED SSA, NOR IS IT LIKELY TO DO SO.

WYGANT  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BANJUL 00525 311325Z

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DATA, ECONOMIC REPORTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BANJUL00525  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780140-0167  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BANJUL  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t1978035/aaaaadzq.tel  
**Line Count:** 136  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 348a7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 78166, 78 BANJUL A-2, 77 STATE 295571  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3277382  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CHANGED> VJT 20040902  
**Subject:** COUNTRY DATA SHEETS  
**TAGS:** PEPR, US, GA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/348a7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014